


 <b>WORDS TO AVOID</b>	<b>WHY</b>	 <b>PREFERRED TERMINOLOGY</b>
<b>Addict, Abuser, Junkie, User</b>	These terms are demeaning because they label a person solely by his/her illness or behavior and imply a permanency to the condition.	Person in active addiction, substance use disorder, or experiencing an alcohol or drug problem.
<b>Abuse</b>	This negates the fact that addictive disorders are a medical condition; it blames the illness solely on the individual, ignoring the environmental and genetic factors, as well as the ability of substances to alter brain chemistry; it absolves those selling and promoting addictive substances of wrong doing; and it feeds into the stigma experienced by the individual, the family, and treatment providers.	Misuse, harmful use, hazardous use, problem use, and risky use.
<b>Clean or Dirty</b> (for drug test results)	These words associate illness symptoms (i.e. positive drug tests) with filth.	Negative, positive, and substance-free.
<b>Habit or Drug Habit</b>	These terms deny the medical nature of the condition and imply that resolution of the problem is simply a matter of willpower in being able to stop the habitual behavior.	Substance use disorder, alcohol or drug disorder, and active addiction.
<b>Replacement of Substitution Therapy</b>	These words imply that treatment medications are equal to street drugs like heroin and suggests a lateral move from illegal addiction to legal addiction; this does not accurately characterize treatment.	Treatment, medication-assisted treatment, and medication.